

**AUGUSTA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION STUDY
FINAL FY 2010 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM
SUMMARY OF PROPOSED WORK ELEMENTS**

1. PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION WORK ELEMENTS

WORK ELEMENT 1.1 – PROGRAM COORDINATION

Purpose: The purpose of this work element is to complete all of the basic activities needed to coordinate the work of Augusta Regional Transportation Study (ARTS) participants and insure compliance with all Federal and State requirements.

Under this work element the overall work program schedule is monitored, reports are made to the Policy Committee, Technical Coordinating Committee and Citizens Advisory Committee, and meetings of all ARTS committees are organized and recorded. Other administrative activities are performed as needed.

Proposed Funding from All Sources: \$117,000

Responsible Agencies: ARCPC, ACPDD, GA DOT, SC DOT, LSCOG

WORK ELEMENT 1.3 – TRAINING / EMPLOYEE EDUCATION

Purpose: To expand the working knowledge of transportation planning methods, tools, and procedures of the staff members involved in ARTS activities.

Participation in transportation planning seminars, conferences and meetings is the focus of this work element. Concentration will be on courses, workshops and conferences that focus on air quality, transportation modeling, public involvement, intelligent transportation systems, congestion management systems, environmental justice and intermodal issues.

Proposed Funding from All Sources: \$18,000

Responsible Agencies: ARCPC, ACPDD, LSCOG

WORK ELEMENT 1.6 - UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

Purpose: The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is the work program for transportation and transit administration and planning activities for the Augusta Regional Transportation Study (ARTS). The UPWP documents the planning priorities for the ARTS study area and describes all work elements to be completed with transportation and transit planning funds.

The work element descriptions are the heart of the UPWP. The following information is included for each work element: purpose, nature of the activity, end product, funding source, responsible agencies and accomplishments during the preceding year. Activities involved in preparing the UPWP include a review of planning issues, development of goals and objectives to address those issues, and development of a planning program which meets the stated goals and objectives.

Proposed Funding from All Sources: \$18,000

Responsible Agencies: ARCPC, ACPDD, GA DOT, SC DOT, LSCOG

2. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT WORK ELEMENT

WORK ELEMENT 2.1 – COMMUNITY OUTREACH / EDUCATION

Purpose: To provide information to ARTS participants and the general public about the transportation planning process, to respond to requests for information from the public, and to foster meaningful public input into all transportation plans, programs and projects.

Public involvement is integral to the success of the regional transportation planning process. The ARTS Participation Plan, adopted on June 7, 2007, guides community outreach, education, consultation and public input in the regional transportation planning process. The Participation Plan includes strategies for consultation with interested parties, public access to information, public outreach and education, obtaining public input and evaluation of the participation tools and techniques used in the transportation planning process.

ARTS staff will use the strategies in the Participation Plan to involve all interested parties in the regional transportation planning process and the development and amendment of major transportation studies undertaken as part of ARTS. The overall objective is to provide a process that is proactive, provides complete information, timely public notice, full public access to key decisions, and opportunities for early and continuing involvement. ARTS staff will continue to evaluate the effectiveness of these and other outreach activities and make adjustments as necessary with the goal of obtaining meaningful public input on all ARTS activities.

Proposed Funding from All Sources: \$36,750

Responsible Agencies: ARCPC, ACPDD, GA DOT, SC DOT, LSCOG

3. DATA COLLECTION WORK ELEMENTS

WORK ELEMENT 3.1 - SOCIOECONOMIC DATA / ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Purpose: Maintain a comprehensive, up-to-date socioeconomic database for the transportation planning process. Activity under this work element will be focus on maintaining and updating the socioeconomic data needed for the ARTS travel demand model. The principal activity involves the annual update of the following characteristics: occupied housing units, school enrollment, employment (retail, service, manufacturing, wholesale and total), total population and median household income. The work element also includes activities to identify the location and makeup of EJ communities throughout the study area. It will also include activities related to updating the boundaries of Traffic Analysis Zones (TAZs) as part of the 2010 Census.

The socioeconomic characteristics used in the ARTS travel demand model will be updated and major land use changes will be noted as they occur. The EJ data will be used to assess the impact of transportation projects on EJ communities. The basic socioeconomic data will be aggregated at the traffic zone level. EJ data will be aggregated at the Census Tract level. The MPO, with assistance from Columbia County, maintains the data for the Georgia portion of the study area. Aiken County maintains the data for the South Carolina portion of the ARTS area. The Georgia Department of Transportation maintains the ARTS travel demand model.

Proposed Funding from All Sources: \$28,100

Responsible Agencies: ARCPC, ACPDD

WORK ELEMENT 3.2 - LAND USE MONITORING

Purpose: Maintain an up-to-date land use database for the transportation planning process. Land use information is useful in annual update of socioeconomic estimates for the study area

This work element involves monitoring changes in land use from one year to the next. ARTS staff will review new site plans, subdivision plats and related information to evaluate the timing and location of land use changes taking place in the study area. Changes in land use may, in turn, trigger adjustments in socioeconomic data or have other impacts on the transportation system.

Proposed Funding from All Sources: \$12,000

Responsible Agencies: ARCPC, ACPDD

WORK ELEMENT 3.4 – TRANSPORTATION SURVEYS, MODELS AND ANALYSIS

Purpose: To promote and encourage traffic safety throughout the ARTS area. To compile and distribute historical and current accident statistics and other data related to traffic safety to the public at-large and to state and local officials responsible for traffic and transportation safety. To work with other stakeholders to implement provisions in the applicable state highway safety plans.

This work element involves collecting intersection accident data from the ARTS area counties and compiling into an annual report. Accident data will be compiled on intersections in Augusta-Richmond County where twenty (20) or more accidents have occurred in the past calendar year. Data will also be collected on Columbia County intersections where ten (10) or more accidents have occurred. Aiken County will be responsible for the collecting and compiling intersection accident data for the South Carolina portion of the ARTS area for inclusion in the report. Accident data will be collected from intersections where ten (10) or more accidents have occurred or where there have been one or more fatalities.

Proposed Funding from All Sources: \$17,400

Responsible Agencies: ARCPC, ACPDD

4. SYSTEM PLANNING WORK ELEMENTS

WORK ELEMENT 4.1 - CONGESTION MANAGEMENT

Purpose: To continue implementing the ARTS Congestion Management Process (CMP) and incorporating congestion mitigation strategies and projects into the Long Range Plan and TIP.

A Congestion Management Process (CMP) is part of the overall regional transportation planning process. Activities under this work element will include completing the annual travel time survey, publishing the annual ARTS CMP Report, and implementing specific congestion management strategies identified in the CMP Report. The MPO and ACPDD will cooperate with local and state agencies in implementing the congestion management strategies.

Proposed Funding from All Sources: \$26,800

Responsible Agencies: ARCPC, ACPDD, GA DOT, SC DOT

WORK ELEMENT 4.2 – *TRANSIT / PARATRANSIT*

This work element includes a number of sub-tasks related to planning and administration of public transit programs in Augusta and Aiken.

WORK ELEMENT 4.2.1 – PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION - AUGUSTA PUBLIC TRANSIT

Purpose: To provide planning and administrative assistance to Augusta Public Transit.

Under this work element, the MPO staff will provide assistance to Augusta Public Transit (APT) in preparing financial and operation's reports required by federal law and regulations. Assistance in the preparation of the National Transit Database (NTD) reports will also continue. Additional administrative assistance will include: Preparing required certifications, updating annual Title VI assurances, providing opportunity for public hearings on grant applications and fare/service changes, processing procurements involving Federal and State funds, assisting in planning for transit system capital investments that will enhance security for the transit system, monitoring requirements of the grant process (e.g. labor certifications, third party contracting, bidding and award process), developing UPWP work elements for public transportation in the Georgia part of the study area, and providing technical assistance on any transit related issues facing Augusta Public Transit (APT).

Proposed Funding from All Sources: \$73,302

Responsible Agencies: ARCPC

WORK ELEMENT 4.2.2 - MANAGEMENT & OPERATIONS – AUGUSTA PUBLIC TRANSIT

Purpose: To explore alternative financial resources that may be available to assist in financing public transportation service and to assess the financial capacity of Augusta Public Transit (APT) as required by FTA Circular 7088.1.

The major activity under this work element will be to continue assessing the financial capability of APT and to secure other possible funding sources for public transportation. This will include updating the Financial Capacity Assessment for APT.

Proposed Funding from All Sources: \$6,000

Responsible Agencies: ARCPC

WORK ELEMENT 4.2.3 - PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION - AIKEN COUNTY TRANSIT

Purpose: To provide planning and administrative assistance that will enable efficient system management for the Aiken County Transit System.

The Aiken County Public Transit System staff is responsible for administering the operation of the Transit System, and completing the public transportation planning necessary to support the Transit System. During the program year, the transit system staff will undertake the following primary activities: provide staff support to the Aiken County Transit Commission (ACTC), a County appointed commission with authority over the Transit System, actively participate in ARTS Committee meetings, administer related planning requirements, contract with the Aiken Area Council on Aging for planning and administrative funds for the Best Friend Express and Dial-a-Ride operations, provide opportunity for public hearings on grant applications and fare/service changes, and participate in transit planning related seminars, conferences, and meetings to expand the working knowledge of transit planning methods, tools, and procedures.

Proposed Funding from All Sources: \$81,376

Responsible Agencies: LSCOG

WORK ELEMENT 4.2.4 – DBE PLANNING - AUGUSTA PUBLIC TRANSIT

Purpose: Planning support will be provided to Augusta Public Transit (APT) in meeting requirements to comply with federal regulations concerning the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program.

Planning support will be provided to Augusta APT in meeting compliance standards for Disadvantaged Business Enterprises. Establishment of DBE goals and monitoring progress will be major activities.

Proposed Funding from All Sources: \$2,000

Responsible Agencies: ARCPC

WORK ELEMENT 4.2.5 - TRANSIT PROJECT ADMINISTRATION – AIKEN COUNTY TRANSIT

Purpose: To provide transit project planning and administration assistance for the Aiken County Transit System.

The Lower Savannah COG Staff will provide project administration activities in support of the Aiken County Public Transit System and administer the contract for the operation of the Best Friend Express and Dial-a-Ride systems

Proposed Funding from All Sources: \$22,500

Responsible Agencies: LSCOG

WORK ELEMENT 4.2.6 - COORDINATION OF NON-EMERGENCY SERVICE – AUGUSTA PUBLIC TRANSIT

Purpose: To conduct transportation planning activities that focus on the provision of sufficient public transportation service for the elderly and disabled and to implement Americans with Disabilities Act requirements.

Activities under this work element will focus on the provision of sufficient public transportation service for the elderly and disabled and to implement Americans with Disabilities Act requirements. This includes the annual update of the complementary Paratransit plan for Augusta Public Transit (APT).

Proposed Funding from All Sources: \$2,000

Responsible Agencies: ARCPC, LSCOG

WORK ELEMENT 4.2.7 - MARKETING / PUBLIC INFORMATION – AIKEN COUNTY TRANSIT

Purpose: To plan and implement the marketing strategy for the continued success of the Aiken County Transit System.

LSCOG staff will implement the annual marketing program for the continued success of the Aiken County Public Transit System. Marketing will be focused on activities to provide a better awareness of services available to the riding public.

Proposed Funding from All Sources: \$18,250

Responsible Agencies: LSCOG

WORK ELEMENT 4.2.8 - SHORT RANGE TRANSIT PLANNING – AIKEN COUNTY TRANSIT

Purpose: To provide short-range planning assistance for the Aiken County Transit System.

The Lower Savannah COG staff will undertake the required short-range transit planning activities. This includes preparing the necessary operations reports, periodically evaluating the level of transit service, monitoring requirements of the grant process, preparing the annual NTD report, preparing the annual update to the Title VI assurances, and helping prepare planning documents for the ARTS area.

Proposed Funding from All Sources: \$50,000

Responsible Agencies: LSCOG

WORK ELEMENT 4.2.9 - LONG RANGE TRANSIT PLANNING – AIKEN COUNTY TRANSIT

Purpose: To provide long-range planning assistance for the Aiken County Transit System.

The Aiken County Public Transit System staff will undertake the following long range transit planning activities: prepare the Aiken County portion of the Statewide Transit Development and Coordination Plan; prepare the Regional Transit Coordination Plan; and participate in preparation of the ARTS Transportation Improvement Program.

Proposed Funding from All Sources: \$55,750

Responsible Agencies: LSCOG

WORK ELEMENT 4.2.10 - TRANSIT FINANCIAL PLANNING – AIKEN COUNTY TRANSIT

Purpose: To provide financial planning assistance for the Aiken County Transit System.

The Lower Savannah COG staff will undertake the following financial planning activities: Prepare financial reports required by Federal and State funding agencies; Develop a diverse, stable revenue base for the Transit System; Explore alternative financial resources available to assist financing transit services; and assess the financial capacity of the Aiken County Transit System.

Proposed Funding from All Sources: \$15,000

Responsible Agencies: LSCOG

WORK ELEMENT 4.2.11 - ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE/TITLE VI – TRANSIT

Purpose: To identify locations of welfare populations and entry level jobs and to link the two through the public transportation system.

Provide liaison between ARTS and welfare planning agencies working together to identify locations of welfare populations, entry-level jobs and the linkages between the two provided by the existing transportation system. Work with area social service agencies to develop a coordinated strategy to make transportation services available to people making the transition from welfare to work.

Proposed Funding from All Sources: \$4,000

Responsible Agencies: ARCPC

WORK ELEMENT 4.3 - INTERMODAL PLANNING

Purpose: To incorporate bicycle, pedestrian, transit, freight and non-motorized transportation planning activities into the overall ARTS transportation planning process. To implement projects that resolve conflicts between modes of transportation, such as rail / highway conflicts, and projects that improve connections among modes of transportation.

This work element will be used to foster a transportation system that accommodates bicycle, pedestrian, transit, freight and other non-motorized means of transportation. Activity under this work element will continue to focus on evaluating the highway / rail conflicts in the ARTS area, to evaluate the needs of freight haulers, to explore opportunities for intermodal transportation projects, and to identify possible solutions to problem locations as they are related to intermodal connections. Additional Intermodal studies will be completed as needed.

Proposed Funding from All Sources: \$30,000

Responsible Agencies: ARCPC, ACPDD, GA DOT, SC DOT

WORK ELEMENT 4.4 - AIR QUALITY

Purpose: To monitor relevant air quality data and regulations, participate in the CSRA Air Quality Alliance, assist in implementing local and regional air quality initiatives, and keep local and regional stakeholders informed about air quality issues.

Under this work element ARTS staff will continue to monitor relevant air quality data and regulations, coordinate air quality initiatives in the study area, solicit input from stakeholders and keep them informed about air quality issues, and participate in air quality training.

Proposed Funding from All Sources: \$25,000

Responsible Agencies: ARCPC, ACPDD, GA DOT, SC DOT

WORK ELEMENT 4.8 - GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT & APPLICATIONS

Purpose: Use local Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and internet websites in the transportation planning process. Update computer hardware and software as necessary to keep pace with changes in GIS and other computer programs.

Under this work element ARTS staff will use Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and the internet to collect, analyze and display transportation-related information. GIS maps will be used to create maps for ARTS-related reports and presentations. The internet will be used to gather additional information (e.g. reports, data) used in transportation planning. Computer hardware and software will be purchased for use in regional transportation planning.

Proposed Funding from All Sources: \$65,000

Responsible Agencies: ARCPC, ACPDD

WORK ELEMENT 4.11 - LONG RANGE PLAN

Purpose: Update and maintain the ARTS Long Range Transportation Plan in accordance with transportation planning regulations.

This work element involves updating the ARTS Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) to the 2035 horizon year, and making any needed amendments to the LRTP. Amendments may be necessary due to new regulatory requirements, changes in socioeconomic conditions, the identification of additional transportation needs, or to take advantage of unforeseen project funding opportunities.

Proposed Funding from All Sources: \$17,000

Responsible Agencies: ARCPC, ACPDD, GA DOT, SC DOT

WORK ELEMENT 4.12 - TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Purpose: Update the ARTS Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) in conformance with Federal regulations.

This work element involves the annual update of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The TIP covers a four-to-six year programming period. Updates involve the removal of projects, which have advanced to construction, the development, or update of project descriptions or cost estimates, and the prioritization of projects. The TIP is developed with public input and in consultation with federal, state and local stakeholders. The TIP is subject to the review and consultation process in the ARTS Participation Plan. The TIP is also reviewed and adopted by the ARTS committees.

Proposed Funding from All Sources: \$34,000

Responsible Agencies: ARCPC, ACPDD, LSCOG, GA DOT, SC DOT

WORK ELEMENT 4.13 - SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION STUDIES

Purpose: To complete a planning-level transportation study (or studies) that addresses some need, problem or issue identified through the regional transportation planning process. Typically funds allocated to the Special Study work element are used to hire a consultant to complete the study. Non-federal matching funds are required from the project sponsor, be it the MPO or other ARTS participant (e.g. local government).

The study can focus on a need or issue tied to a specific location in the study area or, preferably, addresses a transportation need beneficial to the entire region. Examples of special studies that might be funded in FY 2010 include updates of the ARTS Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), the ARTS Regional Bicycle and

Pedestrian Plan and the Augusta Regional ATMS Master Plan. The LRTP must be updated and adopted by September 1, 2010. The Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration recently recommended that the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan and the ATMS Master Plan be updated (see ARTS Certification Review Report of September 18, 2008).

The City of Aiken will be conducting corridor studies on SC Highway 19 and Dougherty Road. Aiken County will be preparing a Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan and will conduct a corridor study on the Aiken Augusta Highway.

Proposed Funding from All Sources: \$593,000

Responsible Agencies: ARCPC, ACPDD